Approved For Release 2007/06/19 : CIA-RDP99-00498R000100170063-7

STAT

3

CIA OPERATIONS CENTER

NEWS SERVICE

Date. 15 May 1979
Item No. 1
Ref. No. _____

STAT

DISTRIBUTION II

W103
D
CIA
BY LEE BYRD

WASHINGTON (AP) -- PROPOSED LEGISLATION BARRING THE UNAUTHORIZED PUBLIC IDENTIFICATION OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY EMPLOYEES IS CRITICAL TO THE VERY SURVIVAL OF THE FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE, SAYS CIA DIRECTOR STANSFIELD TURNER.

TURNER, IN A LETTER TO SEN. LLOYD BENTSEN, D-TEXAS, WHICH THE SENATOR RELEASED TODAY, COMPLAINED THAT CERTAIN FORMER OFFICERS ''ARE AVOWEDLY DETERMINED TO DESTROY THE AGENCY'' BY BLOWING THE COVER OF AGENTS ABROAD. ALREADY, HE SAID, GREAT HARM HAS BEEN DONE.

THE CIA DIRECTOR PARTICULARLY PROTESTED THE ACTIVITIES OF PHILIP AGEE, A FORMER EMPLOYEE NOW LIVING IN EUROPE WHO HAS MADE PUBLIC THE NAMES OF 1,200 ALLEGED AGENCY PERSONNEL.

''SUFFICE IT TO SAY THAT A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF THESE ALLEGATIONS HAVE BEEN ACCURATE,'' TURNER WROTE. AS A RESULT, HE SAID, MORALE HAS SUFFERED, THE AGENCY'S CREDIBILITY WITH FOREIGN SOURCES HAS DETERIORATED AND THE LIVES OF AGENTS AND THEIR FAMILES HAVE BEEN IMPERILED.

''THE NET RESULT IS A DAMAGED INTELLIGENCE CAPABILITY AND REDUCED NATIONAL SECURITY,'' TURNER SAID.

BENTSEN RELEASED THE LETTER AS URGED THE SENATE TO TAKE SWIFT ACTION ON HIS BILL THAT WOULD IMPRISON FOR UP TO 10 YEARS ANY PAST OR PRESENT CIA EMPLOYEE CONVICTED OF REVEALING THE IDENTITIES OF FELLOW OPERATIVES.

(one)

Approved For Release 2007/06/19 : CIA-RDP99-00498R000100170063-7